



TOWN OF LIBERTY GROVE

County of Door

Town Hall: 11161 Old Stage Road
Sister Bay, Wisconsin 54234
Phone: 920-854-2934
Fax: 920-854-7366
tlibertygrove@dcwis.com

Date: March 5, 2014

From: Town of Liberty Grove, Door County, Wisconsin

To: Federal Communications Commission, Rural Broadband Experiments Program

RE: Expression of Interest in the Connect American Fund Phase II experiment
broadband subsidy

The Town of Liberty Grove is a rural community located at the tip of the Door County peninsula, the "thumb" of Wisconsin between the waters of Green Bay and Lake Michigan (part of census tract 55029100100). Liberty Grove is about 54 square miles, approximately 8% public park land, with 45 miles of shoreline. Our year around population is a little over 1,700; our warm weather population is nearer 5,000. On any day during the tourist season we will have hundreds, sometimes thousands, of daily and weekly visitors enjoying our natural and artist colony assets. We also have about 300 businesses, many of which are home based, who need adequate Internet access.

Because Liberty Grove is at the tip of a 60 mile long peninsula, is rural and has a relatively hilly, rocky, forested landscape, suppliers of broadband have deemed it too costly to provide us with adequate wired service. Only a small fraction of our community has access to Internet speeds at or exceeding 3Mbps downstream/768kps upstream. Our Internet access limitations make it very difficult for us to attract new businesses, including professionals who could work from home, to attract new residents, especially younger families, and to provide our aging population access to community, government and information resources to maintain their quality of life.

Our plan to provide broadband access for the underserved and unserved areas of Liberty Grove is to work with a local wireless ISP, expanding their coverage through the addition of new, taller wireless service transmission towers. Non-line of sight service (that most commonly available from shorter towers) maxes out at about 2Mbps upload speed. Line of sight service, more available with taller towers, commonly allows 10 Mbps. Last year, our county, Door County, raised the permitted height for transmission towers from 75' to 125' tall. This year Liberty Grove has committed at least \$10,000 toward the construction of a new or upgraded transmission tower. Unfortunately, even at the new 125' height, one tower can only serve a small fraction of our area. We need to do more.

Fifty Miles of Scenic Shoreline at the Tip of Door County

Our proposal is for the Town of Liberty Grove, Wisconsin to use Phase II grant money to build and maintain more towers to provide line of sight wireless broadband service to as much as 90% of our Town. Pricing to users would be at market rates, tied to the speed and volume of service requested, just as it is now. Construction and ISP services would be supplied by vendors local to Door County. Our request is for \$100,000 per year for two years for construction and equipping of five towers each year and \$3,000 per site per year to assist with ground lease costs.

Year / Amounts in \$000	1	2	3	4	5
Tower Construction	100	100			
Ground Lease	15	30	30	30	30
Annual Totals	115	130	30	30	30

If additional information is desired, please contact either:

Janet Johnson, Admin Asst.
Town of Liberty Grove
11161 Old Stage Road
Sister Bay, WI 54234
(920) 854-2934, fax: (920) 854-7366
tlibertygrove@dcwis.com

David Studebaker, Liberty Grove IT Committee
Town of Liberty Grove
11161 Old Stage Road
Sister Bay, WI 54234
(920) 854-2934
das189@tigereye.com